

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 02472 141244Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EB-07 L-03 SSO-00 /033 W

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O 141220Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4915 IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 2472

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, TC

SUBJECT: SERIOUS POTENTIAL TRADE DISPUTE IN ABU DHABI

REF: (A) ABU DHABI 2432, (B) ABU DHABI 2443, (C) STATE 224687,
(D) STATE 226540

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESSMEN EXPRESSING ANXIETY ABOUT PEAVY AND TOWNSON'S FUTURE PLANS. ONE CREDITOR WITH DISHONORED CHECK IN FIST (\$5,000) HAS TOLD US THAT CRIMINAL ACTION IS POSSIBILITY. THIS PROSPECT COULD, OF COURSE, AFFECT CALHOUN'S ABILITY TO LEAVE ABU DHABI. FORMER ASSOCIATE OF CALHOUN'S TOLD US THAT PEAVY AND TOWNSON FILED BANKRUPTCY PETITION IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA. (PLEASE ADVISE IF WASHINGTON ABLE TO CONFIRM). CONSENSUS OF BUSINESSMEN AFFECTED IS THAT CALHOUN IS UNLIKELY TO RETURN. HOWEVER, GRANT JONES BY SEPT 13 TELEPHONE CALL TO CONSUL REPEATED ASSURANCES GIVEN TO WASHINGTON ABOUT CALHOUN'S INTENTION TO RETURN.

2. ABU DHABI DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS SENT URGENT LETTER BY MESSENGER TO EMBASSY THIS MORNING REPORTING THAT CONSULTING ENGINEERS HAVE TOLD THEM THAT PEAVY AND TOWNSON HAVE ABANDONED WORK ON THE ROAD AND ASKING "ANY INFORMATION" FROM EMBASSY. CHARGE IN RESPONSE CONVEYED THE LAWYER'S ASSURANCES, SAID THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT PRINCIPALS DIRECTLY AND PROMISED FURTHER WORD WHEN WE KNOW MORE.

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 02472 141244Z

3. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT TO AVOID EITHER UNDERMINING

PEAVY AND TOWNSON'S POSITION OR GIVING MORE FAVORABLE
GLOSS THAN WARRENTED TO MINIMAL FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM.
HOWEVER, FACT THAT ABU DHABI INTERDEPARTMENTAL GENERAL
PROJECTS COMMITTEE REMAINED IN SESSION AWAITING EMBASSY
REPLY TO LETTER UNDERLINES SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION.

4. EMBASSY APPRECIATIVE OF ARP'S QUICK RESPONSE AND
WELCOMES FURTHER INFORMATION.
PEALE

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